



Community Liaison Panel

Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Community Liaison Panel
Minutes
October 5, 2017
Teakettle Community Room
6 p.m.

CLP Members Attending: Turner Askew, Mayor Don Barnhart, Don Bennett, Nino Berube, Chad Campbell, Hillary Hanson, Phil Mitchell, Susan Nicosia, Erin Sexton, Shannon Stringer, Clarence Taber, Brad Walterkirchen, and Bev York.

CFAC Representatives: Cheryl Driscoll, John Stroiazzo and Steve Wright, CFAC; Mike Ritorto and Laura Jensen, Roux Associates.

Agency Representatives: Mike Cirian, Susan Griffin, USEPA; Colleen Owen, MDEQ.

Community Guests: Bill Baum, John Piper, Tabitha Graves, Michael Shephard, Rick Prestbye.

Facilitator: Ann Green, Ann Green Communications, Inc.

Minutes: Ann Green, Ann Green Communications, Inc.

The regular meeting of the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Community Liaison Panel (CLP) was called to order by facilitator Ann Green at the Teakettle Community Room, beginning at 6:08 p.m. on Thursday, October 5, 2017.

Ann welcomed those present and asked all to introduce themselves. Each person was also asked to share their affiliation with the community or the project.

The agenda and meeting materials were reviewed. The team agreement was noted; members and guests were asked to respect the agreement throughout the meeting. Ann explained that a flip chart would be used to capture questions throughout the presentation that do not relate to the discussion topic. If time allowed, the questions would be addressed at the end of the presentation.

The meeting goals were reviewed.

Project Update

Communications Update

There were no issues noted by the panel members or the agencies. No calls were received in the Ann Green Communications' office.

Ann said a Project Update brochure was mailed to 659 community members on September 26, 2017; CLP members were also emailed a copy. A meeting announcement was included in the Update. The CFAC Project website included a meeting announcement on the welcome page. Two ads each were placed in the Flathead Beacon, Daily Interlake, Whitefish Pilot, and Hungry Horse News the week prior and the week of the meeting. Meeting reminders were mailed and emailed to members and calls made to those who did not respond.

Historical Perspective

Nino Berube had asked for and received time to address some concerns he holds as a former employee of CFAC. Nino said he was responding in part to the response to his letter to the editor in local newspapers from John Stroiazzo. He said Glencore's goal is not to get the property cleaned up for the community. He said he believes Arco will eventually foot the bill for the cleanup. He explained that he asked Glencore and the EPA for a personal meeting and to walk the site in April 2015. He noted this meeting occurred on October 8, 2015. He reviewed a number of specific concerns noted in his letter to the editor and his ongoing frustration that former employees aren't being more involved in the site assessment work.

Project Updates

United States Environmental Protection Agency Update (USEPA)

Mike Cirian, USEPA Project Manager, introduced Dick Sloan, the new Environmental Project Manager for the CFAC project, from the Waste Management and Remediation Division of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

Mike said the agency is working with CFAC to fact track the risk assessment field sampling activities associated with the erosion of the South Percolation Pond bank.

Mike introduced Susan Griffin with EPA who presented an overview of the Superfund Risk Assessment Process. *A copy of her presentation is attached.* She explained how risk assessments are conducted and how the EPA establishes threshold values. She noted the agency

assumes a threshold above which adverse effects can be expected and below which no adverse effects are anticipated.

Project Update

John Stroiazzo shared pictures from the demolition work being completed at the site. He said potroom demolition work is expected to be completed by November 2018. He described the process of removing the cathodes (spent potliner) and disposing the spent potliner as hazardous waste at an out-of-state EPA licensed facility. Removal and offsite disposal of the last remaining spent potliner material will be completed in November 2017.

John noted that CFAC continues to maintain the warehouse and a couple of other useable structures. He noted they have received inquiries about the property, but no one has put forth an offer to buy or rent the facility. However, they keep talking, he noted.

When told that trucks going to the landfill are creating lots of dust, John said he would look into it with the contractor doing the work.

When asked what will happen to the electrical equipment on site, John explained the electric company may remove some of it. The contractor doing the demolition work will be draining the oils from the equipment, properly disposing of those wastes, and try to recycle the remaining materials.

John suggested next spring's CLP meeting include a site tour.

Mike Ritorto of Roux Associates provided an update of project activities and explained that much work had been accomplished at the site since the last meeting. *A copy of his presentation is attached.*

Details of the presentation included:

- Project update since the last CLP meeting
- Review of groundwater flow at the site
- Summary of groundwater sampling results
- Summary of surface water sampling results
- Next steps for the project
- Work schedule

Mike explained groundwater levels and flow and discussed groundwater sampling results. The significant results from this round of sampling confirm that groundwater flow is south-south west and toward the Flathead River. It also confirms that no cyanide was detected in wells near Aluminum City. Further, historical landfills are the source of cyanide and fluoride in the groundwater.

Mike reviewed next steps, which include:

- Additional sampling will be conducted at the South Percolation Ponds

- Groundwater and surface water data summary report will include all four rounds of data
- Draft of baseline ecological and human health risk assessment work plans will be completed
- Phase II sampling and analysis plan will be developed
- Phase II remedial investigation to be conducted in Summer 2018

The following chart describes the current status of work at the site.

Complete?	Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Recent and Upcoming Task Schedule	Estimated Completion Dates
✓	Draft Phase I Site Characterization Data Summary Report	February 2017
✓	Draft Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment Report	February 2017
✓	2017 Field Activities – Slug Testing and Asbestos Landfill Soil Sampling	Summer 2017
✓	Final Phase I Site Characterization Data Summary Report	September 2017
✓	Final Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment Report	September 2017
	Groundwater and Surface Water Data Summary Report	October 2017
	Draft Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment Work Plan	November 2017
	Draft Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment Work Plan	November 2017
	Phase II Sampling and Analysis Plan	1 st Quarter 2018
	Phase II Remedial Investigation Field Program	3 rd Quarter 2018
	Phase II Data Summary Report	1 st Quarter 2019
	Baseline Risk Assessment	3 rd Quarter 2019
	Final Remedial Investigation Report	1 st Quarter 2020
	Feasibility Study Work Plan	3 rd Quarter 2020
	Feasibility Study Report Submitted to EPA	1 st Quarter 2021

The state and federal agencies review all data and must approve and oversee all work related to the project, Mike said. He added the work has been completed on schedule and has met the commitments CFAC made to the project. All parties are working cooperatively, he said.

Other Comments

Erin Sexton expressed interest in forming a TAG group outside of the CLP. Susan

Nicosia reminded members the CLP can ask for a Technical Advisory Services Contract to get answers to specific technical questions.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The panel will meet in Spring 2018. The date will be communicated to the panel and the public.

There being no further business, Ann asked members to complete their meeting evaluation forms. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE: **To Be Determined**